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If you go down to Mexico and look around for changes that have taken place as a result of the bracero program, you are going to be very disappointed. I come from Guadalajara. All around are little towns -- farming towns. I have been there. I know them well. I have seen no changes. Not in farming methods, not in sanitation, not in anything.

The money that the braceros make? They don't make very much. The illegals were better off. Let me tell you how it is. I worked around Brawley as a "wetback" myself, and later as a foreman for both "wetbacks" and ~~for~~ braceros. The "wetbacks" got $3.00 a hundred for picking cotton. They were experienced; they knew the ropes; and they worked hard. Every day my crew would fill one and a half trailers full. That was 35 or 40 men. They saved their money. They slept in the fields. Or three or four or five of them would rent a room and do their own cooking. They would send maybe $20 a week home to Mexico, regularly. And when they spent their money, they spent it in Brawley. They didn't go down to Mexicali, because they would have trouble getting back in the country. So they spent money in restaurants, bars, clothing stores, and Brawley was a boom town. All the merchants were very happy.

Now, with the National, how does it go? He gets the same wage -- $3.00 a hundred pounds; or 70¢ an hour. But he pays $1.75 a day for room and board, and he has insurance and so on. He gets to keep maybe $1.00 a day. He can't save any money; he can't send any home to Mexico; he doesn't have any to spend in the local stores. Or, if he does get a little money, he is free to go across the border to Mexicali, and he does. He spends his money there, and the local merchants are going broke, and are very unhappy.

I'll tell you another thing. I would take a crew of braceros out to the cotton field about 6:00 in the morning. By 10:00 in the morning they would all be lying under the truck in the shade. They said they were too tired; they said it was too hot. Do you know how much the Nationals would pick in a day? Half a trailer full. And do you know how many men in the crew? 75. I used to have to make two trips into the labor center to pick them up. Then I got a larger truck and could take them in one trip. But I had to make two trips to get water. I had a watertruck hitched on behind. I would put 400 pounds of ice in there twice a day, and I had to pay for that out of my own pocket.

Naturally, the farmers aren't happy with the braceros; neither are the foremen; neither are the businessmen; neither are the braceros themselves. I guess the only ones who are happy are the Mexicans who run the camps, and get $1.75 a day for the men's meals, and have lots of other ways of making money, too.